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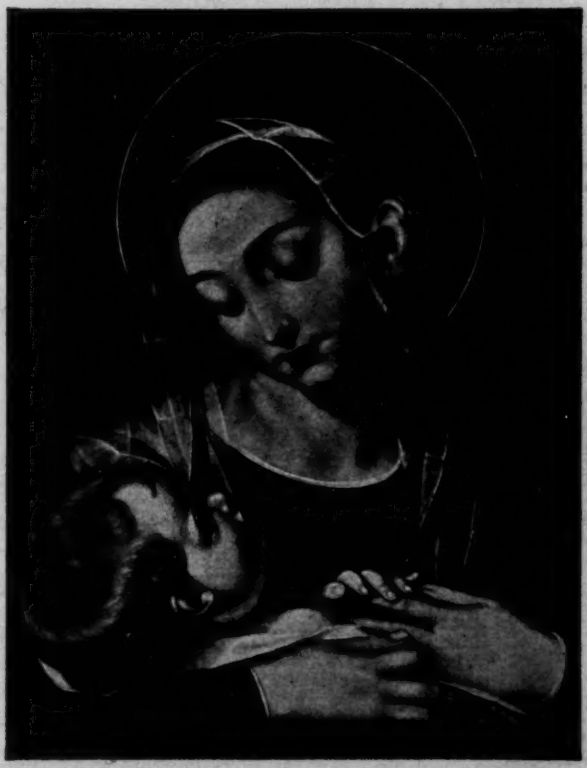

Our Lady of Divine Providence
Queen of the Home

Vol. 29 May, 1933 No. 1

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Mary, Mother sweet, Mary, Mother fair,
Virgin, Queen of May, hear our prayer,
Unto Jesus pray each day
We may grow like thee, our Queen of May!

that

# Tabernacle and Purgatory

**A monthly periodical devoted to the Most Blessed Sacrament and the consolation of the Poor Souls. Price $1.00; Canada, $1.25. Published with the approbation of Most Rev. Francis Gilfillan, D.D., Bishop of St. Joseph, and the Blessing of Pope Pius XI.**

*Vol. 29* *May, 1933* *No. 1*

## Our Lady of Divine Providence, Queen of the Home

IN the corridor of the famous old church of San Carlo a Catinari in Rome hangs a beautiful painting of the Madonna and Child which bears the sweet title of "Mater Divinae Providentiae — Mother of Divine Providence." The original of this painting was made by the celebrated artist Scipioni Gaetano in 1580. For hundreds of years Our Blessed Lady has been showering blessings upon those who appeal to her under this sweet title at this little shrine.

Encouraged by the Sovereign Pontiffs, and enriched by them with many privileges, this devotion has found its way into many lands, including also our own country, where it has struck a responsive chord in the hearts of the people. Side by side with the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home, families are urged to enthrone also the Blessed Mother as their Queen, honoring her under the title of "Our Lady of Divine Providence, Queen of the Home." This is a

sweet and appealing devotion — one which awakens in the heart the most tender affections and sublime aspirations.

Do we wish Jesus to reign as King of our hearts and homes? Then let us invite His Blessed Mother to prepare the way for His reign by establishing first the sweet reign of her love as Queen. As His last legacy when dying upon the Cross, Jesus bequeathed to us, in the person of St. John, His precious Mother, to be our all in all, in joy and sorrow, in life and death. Like the Beloved Disciple, let us, too, take her to "our own," — to the intimate circle of our home, and there with filial devotion enshrine her as our Mother and our Queen. Let us share with her our joys, our sorrows and our sufferings; she has experienced all these in a degree all but infinite; she will teach us how to accept them from the hands of Divine Providence, — how to employ them for God's greater glory and the welfare of our souls. She will teach us how to sanctify all the little occurrences of our daily life and to ward off the evil influences which threaten to rob us of that most precious heritage — the intimate life of the family in the home.

## History of this Devotion

In 1664, the exquisite Madonna painted by Scipioni Gaetano came into the possession of the Barnabite Fathers in Rome. For more than half a century it remained hidden away in the confines of the monastery. At length, in 1732, Padre Moffetti, a very pious monk who was then superior, recognized the beauty of the picture and felt convinced that Our Blessed Lady had not confided this ravishing image of herself to the care of his Order without some special providential design. At his suggestion, a copy of the picture was made by one of the lay-brothers of the monastery and hung in the corridor leading to the church of San Carlo. A few simple ornaments were hung about the modest little shrine, and the title "Mater Divinae Providentiae" was inscribed beneath the picture.

Scarcely had the little corridor shrine been opened to the public when the image of the Madonna began to attract all hearts. Daily many pilgrims visited the image, and the favors obtained were so numerous that the power of Our Lady implied by the beautiful title of Mother of Divine Providence was daily more and more verified. The devotion was approved and enriched with extraordinary spiritual privileges by Pope Benedict XIV, as also by Pope Pius VII, who visited the shrine in order to return thanks after his exile; likewise by Popes Gregory XVI and Pius IX, both of whom visited the shrine and celebrated Holy Mass there, and by Pope Leo XIII, who sent a

Cardinal to represent him at the solemn coronation of the miraculous image at the shrine and set aside November 19th as the Feast of Our Lady of Divine Providence, providing for the feast an Office and the proper of the Mass. Pope Pius X extended spiritual privileges to religious communities, colleges, schools and other religious institutions in which a picture of Our Lady of Providence should be exposed, and our present Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, has likewise expressed his approval of the devotion.

## Description of the Picture

The cover design of this issue of "Tabernacle and Purgatory" is a print of the beautiful *Mater Divinae Providentiae.* In this portrait the figure of the Divine Mother is visible as far as the girdle. She is seated, holding the little Jesus in her arms and pressing Him to her heart, her eyes resting upon Him with mingled joy and adoration. Her head is bent slightly to the right; her hands, slender and beautiful, encircle the Child and support His little form. The Baby Jesus, seated on His Mother's lap (to judge by the position of His head), turns completely, — eyes, hands and heart — to her who is dearest to Him of all creatures — His Mother. His little head is seen in profile, His smiling lips in quick sweet movement, His golden hair, in soft ringlets, illumined in such wise, half dark and half bright, that His head stands out in marked relief. Above the coverlet which enfolds Him we catch a glimpse of one plump little shoulder, and beyond the shoulder the five chubby fingers of His left hand, resting in love and trust on the hand of His Mother.

The Virgin's head is covered with a white veil, sheer and exquisitely delicate, falling in most graceful folds about her neck and shoulders. Every line, every color, shines through that veil, so wonderful in its movement and transparency.

Wonderful though this picture may be as a work of art, it is still more wonderful as a work of religion; it breathes the very atmosphere of religion; it is a model of religious art. Its beauty as a work of art serves only to deepen its appeal as a work of religion. "Our Lady of Providence" is beautiful, not merely to eyes that see but human beauty; her beauty inspires piety, moves the heart to prayer and heavenly thoughts. One who gazes at this painting cannot long remain cold and indifferent; instinctively he will feel that he is confronted by a heavenly vision. His heart will be fascinated by the delicate charm of the Madonna and the captivating loveliness of the Child, both radiating an atmosphere which is not of this earth.

A great man once remarked that to be a good painter, the painter

must "go down on his knees." In gazing upon this picture, we cannot but feel that before the artist commenced its painting he must have recollected himself, plunged mentally into the depths of his subject, until he felt it in the depths of his own soul. He saw not only the aesthetic, but also the soul which must animate the exterior. He saw that the Woman he portrayed was more than woman; the Mother he painted was more than mother; and that those eyes of hers, those eyes of love and mercy, those eyes melting into the eyes of the Infant Jesus, saw in that one Babe countless other children, all those poor sad souls which the one Babe was to save and redeem with the price of martyrdom and blood.

The title "Our Lady of Divine Providence" has a special appeal to us at our present time when only confidence in the love and help of our provident Heavenly Father can restore calm to our anxious hearts. Happy are those who turn to the Father of all mercies through Mary, the Mother of Providence. What blessings may they not hope for when they confidently address to Him the prayer of Holy Church for this feast: —

*Be propitious to us, O Lord God, who approach with confidence unto the throne of grace: that at the intercession of the most kind Mother of Divine Providence we may obtain mercy and find grace for a timely aid.*

## Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin!

WITH joyful hearts we welcome the beautiful month of May! Although the valleys are shrouded with fog on many a morning and rain clouds often hide the sun, we perceive the sprouting, budding and blooming of virginal earth! And on a bright sunny day, when a seemingly heavenly light spreads over the silvery garments of the blossoming trees, one gazes with astonishment on nature's sparkling splendor.

A pious legend relates that during the month of May the Blessed Virgin traversed the earth, and as she passed, verdure sprang forth beneath her feet; at one look of her mild eyes, flowers of rarest hues burst into blossom, and at one wave of her queenly hands, the angels wove a blending May garment for the fruit trees.

True it is that since the Blessed Virgin Mary walked in this vale of tears a new life began among the children of men. Through her came Life, all hope and all grace: in Jesus, her blessed Son, — the Son of the Eternal Father.

No man should be lost since the **Magnificat** has resounded among the hills of Judea, for great things have been done to Mary, by Him Who is mighty and Whose name is holy: and Whose mercy is from

generation to generation to them that fear Him. His great mercy and His grace, with the spotless garment of the heavenly nuptials, the Son of God still gives through His Mother, the Mother of Divine grace. Those who are devout to Mary will be saved through her intercession. Those who promote her glory will be shielded by her maternal protection in life and in death.

Countless sinners have experienced the assistance of the Mother of Mercy. No one has ever had recourse to her in vain. **Mary always helps!** In the year 1866, among the members of the pious society of the Holy Family of Saint Sulpice in Paris, two devout ladies were especially distinguished by the edification they gave. They were always attired modestly in black, and were the most faithful in attending the sessions of the society. They were the wife and the daughter of Colonel J., an aged pensioned officer without fortune and, alas, without faith! His wife and daughter, for many years, joined constant sacrifices to their prayers for his conversion.

Colonel J. lived on Du Bac Street. No one ever set foot into his modest dwelling except another pensioner who was equally as brave and also as lamentably careless in religious matters. Nearly every evening Colonel B. came to play piquet with Colonel J. One evening he found his friend confined to bed with high fever. In a short time the Colonel's condition became so serious that the doctor thought it his duty to inform the family of the gravity of the illness. First the wife, then the daughter, then both together, endeavored to induce the sick man to fulfil his religious duties, but he rebuffed them so angrily that they dared not revert to it again. Yet the two pious women did not despair; they began a novena to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and placed the fate of this poor soul in the hands of the Holy Virgin. **And behold, Mary helped, — Mary who always helps!**

That evening, when Colonel B. came to see his old comrade, the wife and daughter accosted him as he entered. On their knees they implored him: "Dear Colonel, your assistance is our last hope. He does not want to hear of confession. Is he to die as a freethinker? That would be terrible! Have pity on us and urge him to go to confession!"

Colonel B. beckoned them to rise from their knees and exclaimed: "I! But what are you thinking of? What shall I say to him? I do not even know a priest myself!" But the two women insisted. "That will be easy enough," said the wife. "We know an excellent priest at Saint-Germain-des-Pres, Father S. Tell my husband that you know him. We shall send for him. That will have an effect." Too good-natured to refuse, Colonel B. finally consented. They took him to the sick room and remained on their knees in the adjoining room, recommending their improvised missionary to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

After Colonel B. had conversed about other things for a while he proceeded to fulfil his task. "My dear friend," he said, stroking his mustache, "do you know what I should do if I were in your place?" — "No." — "You will die, that is certain; but you certainly do not wish

to die as a freethinker! You are a brave fellow; in your place I should call for a priest and go to confession!"

"You! You would go to confession? You are jesting!"

"Not at all!" responded Colonel B. "I tell you, I should go to confession!"

"Really?"

"Yes."

"And to whom would you confess? I do not know a single priest."

"Well, I know of one, an excellent man."

Colonel J. was silent for a moment; then, looking straight into the face of his friend he said: "All right, if that is your confessor, get him for me." Colonel B. arose at once and going into the adjoining room found the two women still on their knees. "All is in order!" he said in an undertone, with a mysterious mien. "I shall go and fetch Rev. S."

Arriving at Saint-Germain-des-Pres, he found the Rev. S. in the sacristy. After relating the purpose of his errand he remarked: "If Colonel J. speaks to you about me, Father, tell him that you know me and that you are my confessor; otherwise all this would be in vain."

"But my dear sir, how can I tell him that? One is not allowed to tell a lie even to do good."

"Then what is to be done?"

"That is quite simple!" said the priest, after a moment. "Come with me to my little room and go to confession, good and worthy man that you are; then I can in truth tell your friend that we know each other, that I am your confessor, and even that we are friends," he added, extending his hand. The kindness of the priest, combined with the critical situation in which he found himself, gained the victory over the old soldier. He followed Rev. S., knelt down, confessed with sentiments of sincere contrition, and joyfully hastened to his friend in Du Bac Street. He entered the house, told the two astonished women what had occurred, and hastened to the sick room. "O my dear friend!" he said, with tears in his eyes, "if you but knew what a good man he is; I have never met one like him! You will see how easy it will be; you must tell me afterwards."

A few minutes later the priest arrived, heard the confession of the sick man, and without any difficulty induced him to receive Holy Viaticum and Extreme Unction. The following evening he visited the patient again and had a pleasant conversation with him. The next day, Colonel J., brought back to God by the converted Colonel B. and his wife and daughter, passed away peacefully, kissing the Crucifix which his old friend held for him. Truly, **Mary is the Refuge of Sinners.**

If we are in great anxiety and distress about our own or another's immortal soul, let us, full of confidence, kneel before the tabernacle of the Eternal King, who loves His Mother Mary with a Divine love, or before the altar of the Blessed Virgin in our parish church, or the little May altar in our home, and pray with all the fervor of our oppressed but trustful hearts: "Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection... was left unaided."

# Our Joy

GRACE to you and peace be accomplished in the knowledge of God and of Christ Jesus our Lord!" (2 Peter i. 2.) The Gospel is "good news." That is what its name means, and that is what is said by those who announce it: "We write this that you may rejoice and that your joy may be perfect," St. John announced in the letter which accompanied his Gospel. And Paul, eager for the Gospel, himself "overflowing with joy," calls to all Christians as the sharers of his joy: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!"

Rejoice *in the Lord*. That explains the final reason for this joy, this overflowing happiness: Jesus Christ, our Lord, praised forevermore. He is the well-spring of our joy, He is our holiness, our happiness. He alone! For "there is no other name by which we may be saved, happy, but this Name." Yes, in this Name we are really, fully, and entirely glad.

The joy which the Name of Jesus holds for us is threefold: —

### 1. Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar

This is our first joy. If we look at the earthly life of our Lord and Savior, as related in the Gospels, we sometimes feel the sad longing: Would that we also had been so happy as those persons who were permitted to live at the same time as our Redeemer! If we could only be as near to Him as Mary and Joseph in Nazareth and Bethlehem; as near as the Apostles who wandered with Jesus during His public life, who spoke with Him, lived with Him; as near as John at the Last Supper.

But we are in reality as fortunate as these saints. We are just as close to the Savior as they were. We need only have a lively faith. For the same Redeemer who once sojourned upon earth is still with us in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar: He is present truly, really, and substantially, with Flesh and Blood, with Body and Soul, with Humanity and Divinity. When we are present at Holy Mass it is exactly as though we had been present in the Upper Room during the Last Supper or had been on Calvary with the Mother of God at the Bloody Offering. Yes, if we only had more faith! Not only a half faith, but an entire, full, and living faith! If we were entirely filled and penetrated with the knowledge of the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle, how happy would we be as often as we crossed the threshold of a church! How our hearts would beat with happiness and joy at the thought: Jesus is here! Then all our meanness and

faint-heartedness would vanish as we heard the voice of the Savior calling to us: "It is I; be not afraid" (John vi. 20).

If we were really convinced to the very depths of our soul that we actually have the Savior bodily with us, we Catholics would be the happiest people on earth. Indeed we should be so happy that our joy would shine forth upon our brows as we came out of church, even as the brow of Moses shone when he came down from the mountain. For what was written of Moses applies also to us, that "God spoke to him face to face, as a man speaks to his friend."

Yes, Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament is our joy. This good fortune reaches its highest point when we not only worship Jesus, when we not only see Him offered up in the hands of the priest, but when we really receive Him into our own hearts in Holy Communion — and we can do this, should do this, every day! Then we are really as happy as St. John who was permitted to rest on the Savior's breast during the Last Supper. Then we are really like to the Mother of God who bore the Savior in her heart, and with her we may exult and sing: "My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior!"

But still, the moments after Holy Communion are short. Must we not feel heavy at heart when they are over, as a man feels when he must part from a person he loves? No, for Jesus remains in our hearts when we have received Him, and this is our second joy.

To be continued.


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# Mary's Fourth Sorrow

## Meeting Jesus Carrying the Cross

AT length the hour had come, the hour of our Savior's departure for the accomplishment of His Father's will through the bloody Passion for our Redemption. For many years His Mother had felt the pressure of this hour and had tasted it in all its bitter apprehension. What a farewell blessing that must have been which Jesus gave to Mary before starting on His bitter way of the cross! Never did a mother love a child as Mary loved her Child; never was a mother dearer to any son than Mary was to Jesus; and never did two loving persons face so dark a series of events on earth. Never was there a parting on earth which could be compared to the heart-rending pain and the oppressive sorrow of Jesus and His Blessed Mother. For other hearts, such sorrow would have snapped the thread of life.

Mary yearned to clasp her protecting arms about her Son, to shield Him from the deceit of the enemy; but she knew that "He must be about His Father's business." He had come to fulfill His mission as Redeemer, and to participate in His work she must sacrifice a mother's most tender and sacred feelings.

Tidings of the sad capture of Jesus on the evening of Holy Thursday are brought to His Holy Mother. She sets out as soon as possible to be near her Son, at least. She hears of the cruel mistreatments to which He is subjected, the mockeries, the inhuman scourging and the still more fearful crowning with thorns. She hears of the death sentence and in the company of a few other women she follows Him to Calvary. In spite of the multitude, in spite of the executioners, her maternal Heart urges her to look upon her Son once more, face to face.

From afar the cries of the infuriated mob re-echo upon her ear. Nearer and nearer comes that procession, the most painful ever witnessed upon earth and the most glorious ever recorded in heaven. The uproarious, scoffing, jeering rabble surges nearer. "O God," exclaims the anguished Mother, "is it possible? Is this uproar really on account of my dear Son? What has He done that they should rise up against Him? But last Sunday they led Him through the streets in triumph, they spread out their garments before Him. And today... O Father in heaven, to Thee do I cry! Has He not healed the sick, comforted the sorrowing, blessed the children, raised the dead to life, performed good deeds wherever He went? Why do the people now rise up against Him as a degraded criminal?"

The procession is passing... Mary first sees the inscription, then the instruments of crucifixion, then the soldiers and the executioners, and between them her Son, tortured unto death, dragging Himself along, bearing the heavy Cross. He is only a few steps away from her now, and she can see how wearily He struggles on. He can scarcely hold Himself upright; it seems as though He will sink beneath

**Jesus bearing His heavy Cross to Calvary meets His Afflicted Mother.**

*She pushed through the crowds to meet Jesus, to suffer, to weep and to compassionate with Him. She heard His sighs, she saw His parched lips and the disfigured face covered with Precious Blood, and she understood that Jesus was suffering all this for sinners. Oh, who can fathom what took place at that sorrowful meeting, expressed in the cry of each: "My Son! My Mother!"*

*This is the fourth of the series of the "Seven Sorrows of Mary" by the famous Flemish artist, Joseph Janssens. The painting of this picture at Mundelein, Illinois, is most touching and realistic.*

the weight of the Cross at any moment. And how disfigured! She hardly recognizes Him! Is that His dear, beautiful face, so pale, so swollen, begrimed, overrun with blood? And where are those kind and loving eyes? Swollen, clogged with blood, turned black and blue from all the fist blows. Of the pure, white forehead one sees only a bloody spot from which long sharp thorns project. They have pierced His sacred skull under the heavy blows of the clubs, and like so many little daggers the thorns have bored into His brain, racking Him with pain. His beautiful hair has been partly torn out by the rough soldiers, and the remainder hangs down in strands, matted with blood, over His face, forehead and neck.

It is thus the Mother sees her Son again, her poor crushed and rejected Child, and so great was her anguish at this meeting that it is counted as one of the seven swords that pierced her Heart: it is

her fourth Sorrow. O God, how canst Thou look on and see Thy Son thus mistreated? How canst Thou bear to see the hatred of man go to such extremes as to burst upon His innocent Body in such a heart-rending manner? How canst Thou bear to see the incomprehensible sufferings of this poor Mother?

Our Savior raises His heavy blood-dimmed eyes. Mother and Son look at each other with a deep sorrowful look, which cuts deep into the soul of the tortured Mother. With a cry of anguish she pushes forward through the midst of the soldiers, and behold, our exhausted Redeemer staggers and then falls heavily and helplessly under His Cross, prostrate on the ground. What a spectacle for His affrighted Mother! What a dreadful sight to witness! Her beloved and adorable Son, falling powerless, nay, almost lifeless! What a meeting! Our Savior reads the Heart of Mary. He perceives its cruel laceration by this sword of sorrow. He would fain have borne likewise the sufferings of His Mother, but the will of God had decreed that both must fulfill their work, and as this calls Mary farther up the heights of Calvary, so it is advancing her immeasurably to the sublimest heights of love. No doubt at that awful meeting the Son and Mother derived consolation from the union with the will of God which required the greatest of sacrifices from both.

This meeting lasts but a few brief moments... The hangmen strike Jesus and goad Him onward, whilst the multitude sneers and mocks. Sorrowful unto death, the Mother tears herself away from her Son and follows the procession to new scenes of torture. She follows at a distance, and what anguish wrings her maternal Heart as she beholds the only Love of her soul fall to the ground amidst mockery and derision, sees Him driven up again with kicks and blows, only to fall once more. Inarticulate with grief, she is led by sympathetic women. She walks in the bloody footprints of her blessed Son, adoring every drop of His Precious Blood which stains the stones of the street and is being trampled in the dust along the way.

## Courage in the Sorrows of Our Life

And we? Does not our heart fairly cease beating for sympathy and sorrow when we, in spirit, witness this meeting of our afflicted Mother with her immolated Son? Do we realize that we are guilty of inflicting this suffering on our Mother! Our sins have thus tortured her Son; our sins have placed that Cross upon His mangled shoulders; the weight of our sins has unmercifully pressed Him to the ground. Yet with what cold indifference we

can contemplate His sufferings! We are enraged at the Jewish people for allowing themselves to be incited to such inhuman frenzy as to inflict those untold tortures on Jesus. But do we not have reason to strike our own breast and confess: "My fault, my most grievous fault!"

Still another thought: We say we are sorry for having thus offended our Savior. And in the fervor of our devotion we declare that we wish to follow Him bearing our cross. But how often we grow faint-hearted and weary! It is of little merit to accompany Him to the supper-room to His banquet, if we do not also follow Him on the pathway stained with blood till we reach the Mount of immolation, — the altar of the Cross. "He who wishes to be My disciple, let him take up his cross daily and follow Me!"

Do we realize as we ought that as often as any sorrow or calamity befalls us, our Redeemer is offering us His cross? "Help Me to carry My Cross," He pleads. Can we refuse Him? Could we increase the sorrow of His Mother's broken Heart? When adversity and difficulties of whatever nature befall us, let us raise our eyes at once to our Savior laden with His Cross and hear Him whisper: "I send to thee but a tiny particle of My own Cross." Mary, the afflicted Mother, will strengthen us to bear courageously and lovingly the sorrows decreed for our sanctification by a loving Providence. From this dolor of our Mother *we can learn not only how to suffer, but also how to forgive.* She could have called fire from heaven upon the murderers of her Son; but, no, Mary's Heart is fashioned according to the Heart of Jesus: she endures, she pardons, and at this moment of anguish she obtains eternal salvation for countless souls, even for the tormentors of her Son. Imitating Mary, we too, will accept, not only the hard things of life from the hand of our Divine Redeemer, but accept them willingly, cheerfully, ever remembering that the dearest children of our Lord and of His Sorrowful Mother are those who learn to carry the cross, who understand how to carry the cross, and who carry the cross with joy!

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**It is gratifying to us to note the interest taken in this series in honor of the Sorrowful Mother. Devotion to the Mother of God may be considered a sign of predestination... Perhaps some of our dear readers would be inclined to make an offering in honor of the Dolorous Mother if they learned that owing to the lack of stained-glass windows in the Mater Dolorosa Chapel at Mundelein, there is danger of the inspiring paintings of the Seven Sorrows being injured by the bright rays of the South sun.**

# A Devotion Highly Recommended

WITH so eminent an authority as Most Reverend Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of Cleveland, exhorting us to a greater devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague, there is no doubt but that this devotion will spread rapidly through our country. Up to the present time it has scarcely been known, although it has been practiced for over two centuries in Europe. In view of present needs and social conditions, one is struck by the peculiar appropriateness of this devotion. Without a doubt it is a devotion which is calculated to meet the demands of many broken-hearted Christians.

The Miraculous Image of the Infant Jesus was solemnly crowned on Easter, 1655.

Christians are exhorted to return to their primitive simplicity of life. What more simple in our Lord's life than the mysteries of His infancy which are suggested for our imitation in this devotion? When we honor the Infant Jesus and try to imitate His virtues, we are drinking at the fountainhead of all simplicity. The first years of our Savior's life, spent in subjection and humble retirement, were no less a part of the work of our Redemption than were His Passion and death. There is a tenderness flowing from the consideration of the mysteries of the Divine Infancy which is distinctive and does not accompany meditation upon the public life of Jesus. If we feel a wholesome recall to childhood candor and simplicity when conversing with an ordinary child, what an impetus these virtues will receive from devotion to the Holy Infant Jesus.

Devotion to the Infant Jesus will not only foster that spirit of simplicity so strongly recommended today, but also provides its

followers with an excellent opportunity of honoring Christ in His Sacred Humanity under the title of King. *It is a devotion which includes in a wonderful way the remedies proposed by the Church for the evils of the present day.* But this is not all.

From the history of the devotion we know that the Divine Child has been particularly pleased to relieve the distress which proceeds from poverty and poor economic conditions. Confidence in the Infant Jesus would be a great source of comfort in these days of depression and would, without doubt, bring a flood of blessings both spiritual and temporal in its train.

As the years pass, the Divine Child attracts an ever-increasing number of clients, who appeal to Him in every manner of need. We read the following in an old book printed in Kempt: "All who approach the miraculous statue and pray there with confidence receive assistance in danger, consolation in sorrow, aid in poverty, comfort in anxiety, light in spiritual darkness, streams of grace in dryness of soul, health in sickness, and hope in despair. From its beautiful eyes dart sparks of heavenly love; its smiling lips offer us spiritual riches, and its beauty conquers all hearts."

**Helper in Every Need**

Innumerable instances could be reported of assistance received through the Infant Jesus of Prague. Times without number poor workmen, finding themselves and their families destitute and beset with difficulties, applied to the Divine Infant, and never have they failed to obtain the desired help. In business troubles, in domestic trials, in sickness of body or soul, hasten to the Infant Jesus. Make Him your confidante! Pray to Him with all the fervor of your heart, and above all, place full reliance in His Almighty power.

During 1933 we propose to offer a Medal of the Miraculous Infant Jesus of Prague as a premium for renewals of subscription to "Tabernacle and Purgatory." Many persons to whom this medal has been sent have received remarkable favors from the Child Jesus.

We would also be happy to see in each one's hands our 5 cent booklet which contains: —

**History of the Devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague,**
**Accounts of Remarkable Favors: cures, help in poverty, conversions, etc.**
**Nearly 20 pages of Prayers, Litanies and Novenas.**

Address: *Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Missouri*

# A Lover of the Holy Mother of God

**A nun of the Georgetown Visitation Monastery writes: "Last fall (1930) we had a visit from His Eminence Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago. He referred to Father Lukas as one of the saints of this era and country. This he said with much feeling and earnestness."**

**It was in compliance with many requests to learn more of the saintly life of Rev. Father Lukas Etlin, O.S.B., that a biography was undertaken by a Benedictine Abbot, and an English translation is now offered to the public. One recent review of this book asserts: "Father Lukas is revealed as a fervent, simple, loyal, holy priest. Father Lukas had only one thought in mind: to love God. One of the means of acquiring that love was his devotion to the Blessed Mother of God." We are confident our dear readers will appreciate the subjoined excerpts from the chapter entitled "Mother of Beautiful Love," in the book, "Father Lukas Etlin, O.S.B."***

MARY, Mother of God and Mother of men, had completely ravished the heart of Father Lukas. Mary was his guide to God, as he often asserted: "With Mary we shall always find Jesus." Father Lukas' love for Mary grew with his growth; he took it with him from childhood into school, from the class-room to the monastery, from his home, to America. As a healthy tree, year after year, attains new vigor, as it sends its roots more deeply into the earth and extends its crown, so likewise did his love become deeper and broader. Not only his dearly loved picture of the Mother of God, which he kissed often during the day, bears the imprint of his tender affection for his sweet Mother, but in the hearts of the religious likewise remain the effects of his tender love for Mary. A singularly childlike fervor was noticeable in his "Hail Mary" when he led in prayer; whenever he spoke of the prerogatives of Mary, his words were full of holy unction and enthusiasm. It has been said that he possessed the gift of a St. Bernard when extolling the lovableness and the sublime dignity of the virginal Mother of God.

He loved the Rosary and prayed it daily. In order not to be disturbed in praying and meditating on the Rosary, he often went to a secluded spot in a pine grove belonging to the convent. After

***Father Lukas Etlin, O.S.B.**, a short biography by Rt. Rev. Norbert Weber, O.S.B., Archabbot. Price 50¢.

Address: *Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Missouri*

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**

**(Reproduction of the life-sized painting venerated so highly by Rev. Father Lukas.)**

"With what gratitude should we venerate the Mother of God! We adore God in her; she is the temple of the Holy Spirit, the throne, the habitation of the Holy Trinity. God could not create a more beautiful throne for Himself than the throne of the Blessed Virgin Mary." —*Rev. Father Lukas.*

he had thus prayed and meditated on the "Ave Maria," the life of Mary and the mysteries of the Rosary, it is not surprising that he gave full vent to his glowing love and inspired his hearers with a fervent veneration of Mary by his sermons on the Rosary, the "Ave Maria," and on festivals of the Mother of God.

Many a time the life-sized image of the Mother of God standing against the wall in his room witnessed the severity of his penances, for it was stained with the ruby drops of his blood. Well it might be questioned whether such rigor was compatible with a love so fervent and tender as was actually that of Father Lukas. How often, as he knelt before the image of his Heavenly Mother, did he gaze up with childlike confidence at her, and experience the fullness of her maternal love and care. More than once he exclaimed: "The Blessed Virgin Mary is so good to me! I almost have to ask her to withhold the vehemence of the love that floods my soul." Another time, looking at the painting of the holy Mother of God, he said: "After the Most Blessed Sacrament, this is my greatest joy on earth."

When compelled to leave the Convent for business, he would take leave by kissing the picture of his dear Heavenly Mother even more affectionately than usual. While sitting at his writing desk, he would time and again raise his eyes to cast an affectionate glance over to her whom he so ardently loved. He must salute his Mother! A touching tenderness marked his voice as he exclaimed: "O dearest, sweetest, purest Virgin, I love thee!" His whole soul seemed to utter this greeting. It was an expression of his surrender to his dearest Mother, as he would raise his voice and repeat with ever-increasing emphasis and emotion: "O dearest, *sweetest*, PUREST Virgin, I love thee!"

Whether it was really the case, or whether Father Lukas saw a reflection of his own state of mind in the picture of the Mother of God, — on Fridays her beautiful countenance often seemed to him very pale; at other times, radiant with joy. Sometimes he could not refrain from suddenly breaking off his conversation, and directing his attention to the picture, he would say: "Doesn't the Blessed Virgin look pale today?" And at another time: "Oh, doesn't the Blessed Virgin look beautiful today!" Intimate, indeed, was the intercourse Father Lukas and his dear Heavenly Mother exchanged before this picture. He admitted: "I have experienced very great favors through this holy image." There he would remain kneeling, often for an hour at a time, his head leaning against the picture, and repeating with great fervor: "Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum." To his dear Mother he brought all his cares, great and small.

Before writing or dictating an important letter, he knelt before the picture of the Blessed Mother and prayed three "Hail Marys." A copy of each month's "Tabernacle and Purgatory" he placed before her and, praying three "Hail Marys," besought her maternal blessing for that issue. When persons wrote to him asking for prayers in their trials and sufferings, for instance, readers of "Tabernacle and Purgatory," he would hold the letter up to the image of the Blessed Virgin and plead: "O sweetest Mother, help them." After that he would make the Sign of the Cross three times over the letter.

Later, when so much money passed through his hands for the support of poor priests, seminarians, convents and orphans, he sought advice from his dear Mother so that he might divide the alms in the proper way, so that among the thousands who petitioned aid, those who were the poorest and most needy should receive it first. On the great festivals of the Blessed Virgin Mary, his devotion increased to such an extent that he fully submerged himself into the mystery of the feast. He could then forget himself and, so to speak, live in another world. One incident gives us a glimpse into this privileged world. On the morning of the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary — it was a few years before his death — Father Lukas looked exceptionally pale. The Superior sent word, inquiring whether he were ill: "Rev. Father, you look so tired. Did you not sleep well last night?" At this question, a sweet smile flitted over his countenance. He reflected a few moments as to whether he should tell or not, then answered simply: "What else could I do but walk the floor with the little infant Mary in my arms!" While saying this, he crossed his arms over his breast.

## Perhaps God is Calling You

**WILL your life be spent amid the turmoil of the world or is God perhaps calling you to the tranquil, prayerful life of a Benedictine Lay-brother? It is a happy life of work and prayer. The Benedictine Brother like a St. Joseph in the humble workshop at Nazareth glorifies God by the work of his hands in the house, fields, garden, or by the practice of the various useful trades (tailor, shoemaker, printer, bookbinder, mechanic); and sanctifies his soul by a life of prayer and obedience.**

**If you find in your heart a longing to devote yourself in a special manner to the service of God, write for information to the**

**Rev. Brother Instructor, Conception, Mo.**

# The Holy Year, a Year of Sanctification for All

AT the reading of the decree with regard to the canonization of Blessed Andrew Hubert Fournet and the beatification of Venerable Mother Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, the Holy Father expatiated upon the aim and object of the work of Redemption by our Lord Jesus Christ, saying in part: "What else was it but the sanctification of man upon earth? Indeed, the first necessity to destroy the decree of condemnation consisted in battling against sin. This, however, was in a certain sense only the negative side of the Divine program. Our Savior wished to do more. He wished to complete our salvation not only negatively, but also positively — in the fullest sense of the word. He who is truly the Saint of saints and who as such came to us as the teacher of sanctity, has called all mankind to the sublimest heights of sanctity.

"*Sancti estote!* Be ye holy! 'Be perfect, as also your Heavenly Father is perfect' (Matt. v. 48). This Divine Word had to fall upon our poor sin-stained earth and to be taken up by a world which had lost all sense, all thought of good. *And the world answered the call.* This gathering proves that it still answers, that mankind is still capable of understanding the call to sanctity because the Precious Blood of Christ has fallen upon it. Not only the Word, the love, nay, even the Blood of God! *The Holy Year would not respond to Our intention and its purpose if it would not also become a year of sanctification.*

"Regrettably, there are some who claim that sanctity is not a general calling, but only for the elect. No, it is a call to all; to all is directed the word: *Be perfect!* Not all are called to the same degree of sanctity, yet called they are. If therefore our celebration of the Holy Year is not penetrated, *animated and nourished by the longing to attain holiness,* it will not be what the Heart of our Divine King and Savior wishes. And if it is not, our Savior will not be satisfied with us; but we shall and can satisfy Him. Let us not forget: *the Holy Year — a year of sanctification for all!*"

### The Highest Proof of Divine Love

Even non-Catholics have hailed with joy the consecration of 1933 as a Holy Year. An English Protestant paper, "The Church Times" of January 6th, contains, as we see by the "Osservatore Romano," a notice of the publisher regarding the proclamation of the Holy Year by the Holy Father. The paper states, among other things: "It is a fact accepted with pleasure that the rules given by the Eternal City

of Christianity can often be acknowledged with gratitude... Recently His Holiness, the Pope, has had many happy inspirations. But none is so fitting and happy as the appeal to the faithful to celebrate the year 1933 as a Holy Year. We are of the firm conviction that this call will be heeded by many thousands who do not belong to the Catholic Church... The death of our Lord, the incarnate God, is the most important and the most sublime event in the history of the world...

"One must consider the manifold significances of jubilee celebrations to understand what it means when the Pope invites his people for a year, day after day, to remember the Passion, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of our Lord, and to consider what these events mean to mankind; when the Pope invites his people to offer humble works of gratitude for the highest proof of Divine love. We think a wonderful opportunity for Christian cooperation is here given. The true reunion of Canterbury and Rome, so full of meaning for the welfare of Christianity, seems to be still far distant. But it would be well for the Archbishop of Canterbury to share the sentiments which animate the Pope... and issue a similar decree. Then the year 1933 could in truth be called *a year of grace.*"

## The Precious Relic of the Crown of Thorns

*HERE in the United States is a rare relic, a most precious relic: A THORN from the CROWN of our DIVINE SAVIOR. Daily it is becoming an object of greater veneration at the Perpetual Adoration Shrine of "Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament," Mundelein, Illinois. As many requests have been made by the faithful to venerate the holy relic individually, an opportunity to do so is given several time a week. After Benediction on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, that is, about 4:15 P.M., a priest passes the sacred particle of the Holy Thorn to be kissed by those present in the side chapel of the Holy Thorn. Preceding this act of veneration, a hymn in honor of the Sacred Thorn-Crowned Head is sung and a touching prayer recited aloud by the priest.*

*An invitation is cordially extended to all who desire to venerate this sacred relic of the bitter Passion of our Savior. By visiting the Perpetual Adoration Shrine, you will not only have an opportunity to pay your homage to Jesus exposed in the Most Blessed Sacrament, but likewise to venerate so rare and precious a treasure as a Holy Thorn.*

## Our Lady's Interest

IN the Luxembourg Gallery in Paris, there hangs a picture painted by Dominique Ingres, which shows an altar spread with linen cloths. In the centre on a corporal stands a golden chalice surmounted by the paten, on which in an upright position is a Consecrated Host. At each end of the altar there is an attending cherub. One trims a burning lamp, while the other, with deepest reverence showing in his face and attitude, holds a thurible. The central figure of the picture is Our Blessed Lady standing with clasped hands. Her eyes are cast down as she gazes on the Host. In the beautiful face there is expressed such love, such dignity and such maternal tenderness and joy that one realizes at once that she is adoring with reverent love her Son and her God in the Blessed Sacrament.

With that same tender love and adoration Mary gazes upon the Sacred Host upon our altars. There is her Son and her God. We can do nothing better than unite our sentiments with those of the Holy Virgin Mother, the model of adorers, in our veneration of Jesus in the Adorable Eucharist.

On May 13th we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Do you wish, dear readers, to give this sweet Mother some token of your love? Do you wish to show her your gratitude for being the model and inspiration of your preparations and thanksgiving for Holy Communion, for being your guide and aid in your visits to Jesus on our altars? Something which would be highly pleasing to this devoted Mother would be a sacrifice to help complete the payment for the shrine of Perpetual Adoration at Mundelein, Illinois, which is dedicated to the unceasing praise of her Blessed Son under Mary's own title: "Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament."

We realize that funds are low at this critical time when unemployment and the condition of banks have caused actual hardship. Yet love is inventive, and whoever will bring a sacrifice for love of Mary for the glory of her Son Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will experience interior joy in reward for his generosity, the special protection of the Holy Mother of God, and will lay up for himself an eternal reward. We need your co-operation in a special way during this time of special trial, dear friend. May the Master and Mother bless you for all you are inspired to do!

The following are ways that you can give an expression of your gratitude to our Lord and our Lady, by a donation toward the shrine of perpetual adoration: —

**Lighting Fixtures**
**Metal Church Doors**
**Choir Stalls**
**Arches in honor of the Sacred Heart**
**Pews for the laity**
**Carpet for sanctuary**
**Sanctuary Chairs**
**Pipe Organ**
**Stained Glass Windows (40), ranging in price from $150 to $1,000.**
**Mosaic pictures of the Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
**Pillars dedicated to various saints.**

Detailed information and prices will be sent to those interested in contributing toward a memorial.

Address: *Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Missouri*

## Mary, Mother of Mercy, Helper of the Poor Souls

SALMERON, as well as many other divines, is of the opinion that the Blessed Virgin Mary before her death had asked and obtained from her Divine Son the grace that all the souls who were at the time in purgatory might be released and accompany her to heaven, as the just in limbo had entered the heavenly Jerusalem together with our Redeemer on Ascension Day.

Holy Church places on the lips of the exalted Virgin these words of the Holy Ghost: "I am the Mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope; in me is all hope of life and of virtue" (Eccl. xxiv. 24-25).

The saints have great power with God in obtaining graces for us poor sinners; and we may confidently hope that they will use their influence in behalf of their brethren in purgatory. Almighty God is ever ready to hear the prayers of the elect, but when it is His Blessed Mother who asks Him for a favor, He grants it beforehand, as it were. Our Blessed Lady herself declared to St. Bridget that she is the Mother of all those who suffer in purgatory, and that owing to her intercession their sufferings decrease every hour, adding that "thus it hath pleased the Lord." St. Alphonsus Liguori calls the servants of this Mother of Mercy thrice happy, saying that she will extend her powerful protection over them, not only in this world, but also when they are in purgatory. The more helpless a soul is, the greater is the solicitude of Mary to assist and protect her.

The best means to recommend the poor souls to the Mother of God is to enroll ourselves in the Confraternities of the holy Rosary and of the Scapular, with their beautiful devotions, and thereby gain numerous indulgences, which we may either reserve for ourselves or through Mary offer for the holy souls in purgatory.

### "Because He has been Charitable, I will be Merciful"

A priest was favored with the following vision in the Basilica of St. Cecilia in Rome: The soul of a deceased friend awakened him one night and led him into that church. There he saw a group of virgins, St. Cecilia, St. Agnes, St. Agatha and others, standing around a beautiful throne on which sat the Queen of Heaven. Innumerable angels and saints surrounded the Mother of God, whose countenance was at once dignified and loving. Before her stood a poor, ill-clad woman, upon whose shoulder there was, however, a most beautiful and costly mantle of fur. She threw herself humbly at the feet of the glorious Mother, and said with many sighs and tears: "O Mother of Mercy! I entreat thee, have compassion upon the unhappy John Patrizi, who has just died and suffers sad torments in purgatory." Three times she repeated her request, each time with greater fervor, but received no answer. At last she said: "Gracious Queen, thou knowest that I am the poor beggar who, clad in miserable rags and trembling with cold, stood at the gate of the church asking for alms. John Patrizi no sooner heard me appealing to his charity in thy name than he took from his shoulders this fur cloak and gave it to me. I therefore entreat thee again to have compassion on him for the sake of his great charity."

After this touching appeal, the Blessed Virgin looked affectionately at the poor woman, whose entreaties were joined to the prayers of the heavenly spirits, and said: "The man for whom you pray has been condemned to long and intense sufferings on account of his many sins. But because during life he was charitable to the poor and showed veneration to my sanctuaries, I will be merciful." She requested John Patrizi to be brought before her. He appeared at once, pale, disfigured and laden with chains. The most Blessed Virgin ordered them to be struck off, and the man immediately joined the ranks of the saints who surrounded her throne. Thereupon the apparition vanished, and the usual solemn silence reigned in the church.

The priest, however, who had been favored with this vision, after this seized every opportunity of implanting into the hearts of the faithful a true devotion to the Mother of Mercy.

# The Great Novena for the Feast of Love

OUR Lord is pressing for a greater, stronger, truer devotion to His Sacred Heart. The Divine Heart is the Fountain of all good. Oh, let us approach and draw from thence all the spiritual grace of sanctification and all the material favors of which we stand in need! During this Holy Year of our Redemption, the Master would urge us, entreat us to hasten to the Fountain of holiness, His Loving Heart. St. Augustine, adoring the Wounded Heart of Jesus, exclaimed: "Oh, of what a precious word the Evangelist made use when he said, 'One of the soldiers opened His side with his lance.' He does not say, *His side was struck*, but *His side was opened*. That is to say, *the door of life was opened to allow the Sacraments and other graces to flow upon the world*."

In the Perpetual Adoration sanctuaries of both Clyde, Missouri and Mundelein, Illinois, a solemn novena will be held for the triumph of the Sacred Heart in hearts and in homes. Write your petitions and send them to be placed on the altar of Exposition. The perpetual adorers kneeling there day and night will recommend your intentions to the Divine Heart of Jesus, that the waves of merciful Love gushing forth from His opened Side may carry to your souls the precious gifts of His grace.

If you desire to prevail upon the Sacred Heart of Jesus to grant you the graces of which you stand in need, three conditions are necessary: —

1. You must go to Jesus with living faith and great confidence. Whenever Jesus was about to grant miraculous favors, He always demanded such faith and confidence.

2. You must go to your Redeemer with complete resignation to His holy will. The way our Savior will grant your petition will assuredly be most conducive for your soul's salvation.

3. You must go to Jesus with a contrite, repentant and loving heart.

Join the Sisters who during these nine days will have High Mass daily in their Adoration sanctuaries, will sing the Divine Office and chant the "Litany of the Sacred Heart," with Benediction each day. In addition, the invocations of the "Litany of the Sacred Heart" will

*Those in Chicago and vicinity will be pleased to know the schedule of the services at the Adoration Church, Mundelein, Illinois: — Feast of Corpus Christi, opening of Novena, High Mass, 9:30 A.M. High Mass and Benediction daily, 6:30 A.M. Novena Devotions: — Litany of the Sacred Heart and Benediction daily 4:10 P.M. (All Daylight Saving Time). Chicago visitors will find North Shore cars leaving the city and suburbs at convenient times, and can leave Mundelein after the Novena devotion on the 4:30 P.M. car. Others with autos will find the drive delightful.

be addressed each hour of the day and night to the tender, compassionate Heart of Jesus, with a petition for the favors you desire. The novena will begin with a solemn out-door procession of the Blessed Sacrament on June 15th, another procession on Sunday, June 18th, and a procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament on the Feast of the Sacred Heart itself, June 23d.

Petitions may be addressed to either:

**Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Missouri**

Or: **Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Mundelein, Illinois**

# Devotion to the Holy Ghost

PENTECOST is one of the outstanding feasts of the year—one which marks the beginning of a new season in the Church's liturgy. This feast is, in truth, the *birthday of the Church*, for it was not until the Holy Ghost had descended upon them that the Apostles commenced to preach the Gospel of Christ and to administer baptism. For nine days after our Lord's Ascension, the Apostles and disciples of our Lord, together with the Blessed Virgin, persevered in prayer in preparation for the coming of the Paraclete whom Jesus had promised to send. This is the *first Novena* of which we have any knowledge.

We, too, should prepare for this great feast by a fervent Novena in honor of the Holy Ghost. Surrounded by dangers to our Faith, the allurements of a world that is degenerating into paganism, we need the light of the Holy Spirit. We need His guidance in these days of peril. Let us make the novena that He may fill our hearts and enkindle in us the fire of His Divine love, and that He may renew the face of the earth.

**Holy Church has given her solemn approbation of the Pentecostal novena by granting to all the faithful who devoutly and with contrite hearts make this novena in honor of the Holy Ghost, an indulgence of 300 days on each day of the novena and a plenary indulgence either during the course of the novena or upon one of the eight days following. As Pentecost falls on June 4th this year, the novena commences on May 26th.**

**Our booklet DEVOTION TO THE HOLY GHOST contains many beautiful prayers in honor of the Holy Ghost, besides an excellent treatise on His sublime work in the kingdoms of nature and grace, a short explanation of His seven Gifts, reflections for Pentecost and other inspiring thoughts. 10 cts. each.**

**MORE PRECIOUS THAN DIAMONDS — an inspiring treatise on Divine Charity and sanctifying grace. Since all grace is diffused in the Church through the operation of the Holy Ghost, this booklet furnishes splendid supplementary reading to the above brochure. 10 cts. each.**

The above two booklets are especially recommended for Confirmation classes.

Address: **Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Missouri**

# Our 29th Volume

IT was in the month of May, 1904, that our little magazine first went forth into the the world to promote the honor of the Most Blessed Sacrament and plead the cause of the suffering souls in purgatory. That initial issue of "Tabernacle and Purgatory" was launched with a certain amount of misgiving, for a new publication is always a venture. Yet ever since, regularly for twenty-nine years, the magazine has been written in the shadow of the Perpetual Adoration sanctuary at Clyde, and has gone forth to radiate the love of Jesus Eucharistic into hearts and homes even in distant lands. Difficulties have not been wanting, but with confidence in Divine help, they have each one been overcome. Our list of subscriptions has sometimes risen, sometimes fallen. It is to the unfailing fidelity of our beloved readers that we owe the circulation of our magazine. Their practical love for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament and charity for the poor souls finds its outlet in introducing our Eucharistic messenger into new homes.

**CHRIST, the Light of the world, dispels the darkness of sin. The printed word is one of His most potent ways of dispelling the darkness of ignorance.**

But if we ever needed the assistance of our faithful friends, we need it now. The nation-wide economic crisis has caused many to save, and unfortunately, many think they must begin by dispensing with a Catholic magazine. However, hundreds have assured us that they love the pamphlet, that they read it from cover to cover, that it is their greatest consolation precisely in the dark days we are now experiencing. They assure us that the spiritual tone of the magazine elevates their mind, comforts their heart and strengthens their will for good. One subscriber thus beautifully pens her sentiments: "We have need of the beautiful and uplifting, as we do of our daily bread for life. We can 'live' stories during these exciting times; we do not have to read them... Therefore I rejoice that you publish nothing superficial, but give us solid instructions which help us to come closer to our dear Lord."

During this Jubilee Year, could anything more pleasing be offered to Jesus our Divine Redeemer, than to be instrumental in obtaining for souls a deeper knowledge and a truer love for His Gift of Love, the Holy Eucharist! Dear readers, we appeal to you, we entreat you, we confide in your zeal. A zealous Bishop recently called a member of each grade class in a number of parochial schools, and told them that he depended upon them to increase the readers to a certain publication to the extent of 15,000 new subscriptions. Let us, too, take courage and work for Jesu Hostia. There is no sublimer work on earth than to honor the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Can it be done? Assuredly! Would you be surprised to learn that one of our esteemed subscribers has, single-handed, obtained for us 853 NEW subscriptions! This zealous promoter is the good nun who won the first prize in our Silver Jubilee Contest. At the close of that year she had 430 new subscriptions to her credit. But her zeal has not flagged. She has continued to interest persons in our Eucharistic messenger with the result of securing 853 to date. Who will be able to measure the grace, the Eucharistic love, and the virtue in which this devoted religious shares now, and will forever share in eternity! What she has done, we too, could do, did we have an equal amount of zeal. The least we can do is to let the Voice of Jesus from the Tabernacle resound in one more home during the coming year by sending there "Tabernacle and Purgatory."

An esteemed priest who sent $5.00 for the subscriptions of persons too poor to pay their own, writes:

**"I shall continue to use all my influence in behalf of your monthly periodical, which personally I treasure very highly because it is truly Eucharistic, solid and excellent considered from all sides, and above all it does not try to attract by modern love stories like so many other Catholic periodicals. It is true, pure and strengthening manna from heaven, free from the dust of earth."**

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# Little Lovers

DID you ever think, dear little ones, how grateful you should be to Jesus for calling you to receive Him in Holy Communion when you are still so little! And He is willing to come to your heart every day! Oh, how He loves you! You have heard of the holy Pope, Pius X. He loved children very much, and he loved Jesus even more. Because he loved our Lord so greatly, he realized that the Heart of Jesus wishes to come to the hearts of pure innocent little children, and this holy Pope ordered that little ones should be allowed to receive Jesus when still very young, if only they know that Jesus is truly there under the form of bread.

All through the world children may now receive Holy Communion quite young, and this desire for Jesus and union with Jesus has made many of them very holy when they tried to love Jesus and to make their heart a worthy place for Him to dwell. Of some of these saintly children we shall tell you each month.

Did you ever hear the wonderful story about little Miriam? A missionary Father in China was teaching the catechism to some twenty children who were preparing for their First Communion. On one side of the class sat the elder children; on the other were babies of four and five who came just to listen. Among these little ones was a very attentive child.

The Father said to them: "The little Jesus there in the tabernacle is waiting impatiently for you. If you only knew how He loves you! He loves you because you are little. You must love Him very much. Tell Him you will come at once, because He is so impatient to come to you. Little children, good children, fill His Heart with joy."

The attentive little child of four understood the words: "He loves you because you are little; He is impatient to come to you." She thought to herself: "If this is true, I must not keep Jesus waiting. If He really loves little children, why should He not come to me? I am the very smallest." Three days passed. Miriam could not keep it to herself any longer. She went to the Sister in charge and said: "Please, Sister, may I see Father. I want to speak to him." "And what do you want to say?" "Oh," answered Miriam, "I have a secret to tell him!"

The Sister smiled at this tot of four, took her to the priest's room and knocked. When the missionary saw the tiny mite, he said: "Come in, little one; what can I do for you?"

"Father, I want to ask you something very much. You said the little Jesus loves me, and He is waiting for me because I am so small. Then I must not keep Him waiting. As I am the very smallest, please let me have Him before the others. Quickly, Father, give me little Jesus; oh, don't make Him wait."

The Father hardly knew how to answer this child. He did not wish to grieve her... She began again. "You will give Him to me, you will not keep Him waiting, will you, Father?"

"It is true, Jesus loves little children, but to receive Him you must not be *too* little!"

"*Too little,* what is *too little,* Father? I love Jesus and I know my catechism."

This was true and made the answer more difficult for the priest. He thought a while and then turned to Miriam, saying: "How old are you?"

"Oh, I don't know, but I love Jesus on the altar."

"You don't know... I will soon tell you; show me your teeth... Now, when you have little white teeth like this, you are still a baby; you are too small."

"Then, if Jesus thinks I am too small because I have these *little* teeth, when they are gone, will you give Him to me?"

"Yes, certainly, I will give Him to you then."

"And every day?" asked Miriam eagerly.

"Yes, every day, little one."

Miriam turned to leave. When she had reached the door, she stopped, came back and said: "Father, as soon as these *little* teeth are gone, will you give Jesus to me *every day* — promise, Father?"

"Yes, I promise..."

Miriam left the room. Her little heart and mind were working quickly. Her determination was taken: "As my little white teeth make me too little to receive Jesus, *they must come out!*"

Ten minutes later she ran back to the Father, her poor little mouth

covered with blood and tears of pain in her eyes: she had rid herself of the *little teeth*. With a stone she had broken them and then pulled them out!"

"Father, I am not too small any more, my little teeth are gone. You will keep your promise now? You will give me Jesus?"

Tears gushed to the eyes of this missionary who had long sacrificed *all* to win souls to Christ! Yet, to himself he said: "This baby loves Jesus more than I do!"... "Yes, little one, I will give Him to you, and if you had not eaten breakfast I would give Him to you at once. Tomorrow Jesus will come to you, and every morning you shall receive Him into your heart."

The little face was bound up, and the next morning Jesus touched those wounds of love. With delight He entered the soul of this but recent pagan child, who had attained the sublimest heights of heroic virtue by love and could say: "By the martyrdom of love I possess Thee, my Jesus!"

And you, dear children, abounding in grace from infancy, must you not answer: "No, we have never loved Jesus like this!" Remember the story of little Miriam, and when you have to bring a sacrifice, say: "My Jesus, I offer this for love of Thee!"

## An Invitation

**We are certain that among our subscribers there are many little ones who love Jesus too. Write and tell us how often you assist at Holy Mass, receive Holy Communion and visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. To our beloved child-readers of whom their fathers and mothers have often written us edifying things, we shall monthly dedicate some pages, with the view of forming them into a Society. The little boys will be called KNIGHTS of the BLESSED SACRAMENT, and the little girls, HANDMAIDS of the BLESSED SACRAMENT. Let us hear from those who are anxious to learn how to become a Knight or a Handmaid of Jesus on the altar.**

**You may address your letters to: Department "L."**
**Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Missouri**

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Starting

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